[5th February 1934

Compliance by district boards with the Government Order regarding the acceptance of tenders.

* 610 *Q.*—Mr. P. V. KRISHNAYYA CHOUDARI: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there are any boards which have failed to carry out the instructions contained in the Government Order regarding the acceptance of tenders; if so, which the boards are and what action has been taken by the Government against those boards;

(*b*) whether the Government have called for information from each district board and have satisfied themselves that the instructions have been properly carried out; and

(*c*) whether the Government will lay on the table of this House a copy of the information obtained from each district board?

A.—(*a*) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to question No. 609.

(*b*) No, but some presidents of district boards have represented to Government the difficulties they have felt in the observance of the rules.

(*c*) No useful purpose will be served thereby. The question of revising the rules is under the consideration of Government.

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—" May I know what is the nature of the representation made by district boards in observing the rules? "

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—" The absence of approved list of contractors for these districts and also that in the case of small contracts it has been found difficult to enforce the rules; so that the matter is under the consideration of Government."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—" What is the direction in which the Government are considering the revision of the rules? "

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—" One alternative is to have an approved list of contractors, and the other alternative is to have a committee."

Mr. P. V. KRISHNAYYA CHOUDARI:—" What is the benefit that will be derived by having an approved list? "

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—" To prevent malafide tendering."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—" May I know whether the Government will adhere to the rules that, from among the approved list of contractors, the lowest tender will be accepted, or will they depart from the rule? "

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—" Unless there are sufficient reasons, the lowest tender should be accepted."

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI:—" May I know, Sir, whether in this connexion Government will consider the memorandum that I have submitted to the Government some time ago."

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—" It is under consideration."